

Message Text

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14

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-01 SY-07 PPT-01

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O R 240330Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5560

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, AF (MCPHERSON, WILLIAM; TURNER, CHRIS)

SUBJ: W/W - WILLIAM MCPHERSON AND CHRIS TURNER

1. SUBJECTS STATE THEY ARE AMATEUR FILMMAKERS, MAKING FILM ON PUSHTUNS. THEY WERE ARRESTED OUTSIDE KABUL LATE AT NIGHT BY MILITARY POLICE ON SEPT 22, ALLOWED ONE PHONE CALL TO EMBASSY BUT BECAUSE PHONE DID NOT WORK, GUARDS BROUGHT MCPHERSON TO EMBASSY IN CHAINS WHERE HE HAD BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH CONOFF. SUBSEQUENTLY, DESPITE CONOFF EFFORTS TO SEE DUO ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, THEY WERE HELD INCOMMUNICADO. ON OCT 14 WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE SUBJECTS WERE EXPELLED FROM AFGHANISTAN ACROSS IRAN BORDER. GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION WERE CARRYING ARMS (SWISS RIFLE, 100 ROUNDS OF AMMO, AND MACE GRENADES). ACCORDING TO COPY MCPHERSON'S INVENTORY SMUGGLED FROM PRISON, \$15,000 WORTH OF FILMING EQUIPMENT AND BRITISH ARMY AMBULANCE IN WHICH SUBJECTS TRAVELLED WERE CONFISCATED BY AFGHAN AUTHORITIES.

2. EMBASSY RECORDS SHOW MCPHERSON WAS EXPELLED FROM AFGHANISTAN FEB 1973, AND TURNER EXPELLED JAN 1972. EXPULSION NOTES HAD BEEN MADE IN ONE OR BOTH PASSPORTS ON ACCORDION PAGES WHICH SUBJECTS HAD REMOVED. HENCE, AFGHANS CLAIM VISAS WERE OBTAINED FRAUDULENTLY.

3. OCT 22 MCPHERSON PHONED EMBASSY KABUL SAYING HE WAS BEING HELD BY IRAN BORDER POLICE IN TAYABAD. SUBJECTS AROUSED IRANIAN

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SUSPICION BY MANNER THEY WERE EXPELLED FROM AFGHANISTAN. MCPHERSON

REQUESTED PERMISSION THEY BE ALLOWED PROCEED TEHRAN WHERE ONWARD
AIR TRAVEL TO US COULD BE OBTAINED. SUBJECTS HAVE \$2,600 IN
THEIR POSSESSION. A MAJOR ANSARI IS IN CHARGE THEIR CASE IN
TAYABAD. MCPHERSON WAS ADVISED MAKE EFFORTS CONTACT CONSULAR
OFFICER TEHRAN FOR ASSISTANCE RESOLVE BORDER PREDICAMENT.

4. DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH TOLD CHARGE HE PERSONALLY HAD MADE DECISION
TO EXPEL PAIR OVER MININTERIOR DESIRE TRY THEM FOR ILLEGAL ACTION.
ABDULLAH EXPLAINED DECISION ON GROUNDS EXPULSION SIMPLER AND
DID NOT MEAN PROBABLY LONG COURT CASE WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT
US/AFGHAN RELATIONS. HE OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THEIR
TRUE MOTIVES FOR BEING IN AFGHANISTAN AFTER PRIOR EXPULSION.
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